WEALTHCARE FINANCIALS

Facebook — New Federal Loan Caps and What They Mean for Physician Income Protection

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act introduces major changes to federal graduate lending starting July 1, 2026 — including a $50,000 annual cap and $200,000 lifetime limit for new medical and dental borrowers, with Grad PLUS loans eliminated for new borrowers altogether. Because federal loans will cover less, more students may turn to private loans that lack federal discharge protections in the event of disability. The Social Security Administration estimates a roughly 1-in-4 chance of experiencing a disability before retirement, yet only 43% of working Americans owned disability insurance in 2025, according to the 14th Annual Guardian Workplace Benefits Study. For physicians and dentists, understanding how income protection fits into this shifting landscape has never been more important.

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